

America, the land of opportunity. On his arrival in this country he proceeded at once to Trail county, North Dakota, where he worked as a farm hand and attended school in the winters. In 1897 he left the farm and came over into Minnesota and began working in a store at Ada. Here he made good and was presently appointed deputy register of deeds, which position he held for eight years, to the entire satisfaction of all. After completing his term of office he entered the First State Bank of Ada, and there remained for two years, at the end of which time, in the spring of 1915, he became cashier of the Security State Bank of Borup. This institution does a general banking business and writes insurance. In his position as cashier of the bank Mr. Kittilson has demonstrated his ability as a man of business acumen and of the highest integrity.

In 1903 Gilbert Kittilson married Hannah Moffatt, the daughter of F. Moffatt and wife, highly respected people of the county, and to this union have been born three children, Mildred, Fayette and Luicine. Mr. and Mrs. Kittilson are prominent members of the Congregational church and are popular in the social life of the town. Mr. Kittilson is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and of the Modern Woodmen of America and has always taken a keen interest in the civic life of his home community.

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### JAKOB OLSON DRAGELAND.

One of the later settlers of Norman county, where he owns a half interest in a fine farm of two hundred acres of fine farming land in Halstad township, is Jakob Olson Drageland. He is a native of the distant Norway, born there on January 17, 1861, a son of Ole and Karen (Stole) Drageland, both of whom were born in Norway, there grew to manhood and womanhood, married and raised their family. Back in the old home land across the Atlantic, the father, who was a steady farmer, was laid to rest. The widowed mother, on the invitation of her son, the subject of this review, came to Minnesota in 1894 to share with him the comfort and conveniences of his home in Norman county, where she has since resided. Ole and Karen Drageland were the parents of six children, Jakob Olson being the fifth in order of birth, and the others as follow: Gabriel, Severin, Gertie, Anna and Lena, who married John Aamodt and died in 1906 on the farm where her brother, Jakob Drageland, now lives. The subject of this sketch is the only one of his father's children living, all the rest, except Mrs. John Aamodt, dying in Norway.



JAKOB O. DRAGELAND.

Jakob Olson Drageland spent his boyhood and youth on the old home farm back in Norway, where he attended the public schools, and had just reached man's estate when he arrived in America, the land of opportunity, in 1882. He spent the summer of that year in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, and then until 1884 lived the rugged life of a lumberjack in and around Duluth, this state. Feeling that he had a better chance to become independent, financially and industrially, in farming, as he had already had much valuable experience in this line back in the land of his nativity, he came over to Norman county and began working on farms, including the Grandin farm, just across the Red river, on the North Dakota side. Finally, in 1898, he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, John Aamodt, and together they bought two hundred acres in section 9, Halstad township, where they now carry on general farming, both making this place their home. The holding is now a well-improved one, the owners having recently erected a fine barn.

Mr. Drageland has never married. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and has always been an active, consistent and conscientious adherent to that creed. Politically, he is a staunch advocate of independent principles, but has never sought office; nevertheless in all the affairs of his community which have for their aim the common weal, he has ever been active.

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### THOR GILBERTSON.

The late Thor Gilbertson, for years one of the best-known and most progressive farmers and stockmen of McDonaldsville township, Norman county, the proprietor of a fine farm of five hundred and sixty acres and for about thirty years a resident of that township, was a native of the kingdom of Norway, born on June 24, 1850, a son of Gulbrand and Bergit (Peterson) Thorson. His parents were also born in that country, where the father died, the mother coming to America some time after the son, Thor, had immigrated, and here she died in February, 1898, while living in Norman county. They were the parents of the following children: Astred, Anna, Turi, Thor, the subject of this memorial sketch, and Ragnil, all of whom are deceased.

Thor Gilbertson was educated mostly in his native Norway and at the age of twenty-one, in 1871, he came to this country and proceeded on out to